GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4545
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
PROGRAMME FOR OPTIMUM USE OF LAND
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any time bound programme for optimum use of land to support the burgeoning population growth;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) the totalland in the country which is subject to soil erosion and land degradation;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment about the loss of land during the next fifteen years as a result thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial steps being taken by the Governmentin this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for the Tenth Five Year Plan, constituted by the Planning Commission, has formulated a perspective plan for treatment/reclamation of an area of 88.5 million ha. in 20 years through Watershed Development Programmes.

(c) to (e) It is estimated that about 173.6 million ha., out of total reported area of about 306 million ha., is subjected to various kinds of land degradation and about 5334 million tonnes of top soil is being lost every year through water erosion.

(f) The Government of India is implementing the following watershed development programme for development and management of degraded/rainfed land in the country:

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA),

(ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),

(iii) reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS),

(iv) Watershed Development Project in Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). An area of about 27.5 million ha. has been treated under these programmes by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.